

August 24, 2025

A Reflection Before the Service

“No reason to get excited,” the thief, he kindly spoke
“There are many here among us who feel that life is but a joke
But you and I, we’ve been through that, and this is not our fate
So let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late”

— Bob Dylan, “All Along the Watchtower”
from the 1967 album, *John Wesley Harding*

We see the idolatry of Statism arising among professing Christians and within the Christian church as early as the 1st Century. The congregations in Pergamum and Thyatira worshipped idols. Many commentators argue that the Beast of Revelation is a political tyrant who was worshipped. Nero fits this description well. The angel who served as John’s prophetic tour guide corrects the apostle, putting it directly and simply, calling him to “Worship God! [not a created being]” The object of our worship matters; it’s the whole enchilada, including our political chips and salsa.

When we instead functionally ascribe worship to creation, and in particular to political leaders, it spawns bad consequences: As Wright and Bird note: *“When leaders are venerated as “God’s choice” – religious adulation – any critique will be treated as either treason or blasphemy”*

... This lust for power, craving access to the inner circle, never satisfies, but always enslaves. The corrective words of John prove just as potent and important today as they did in the first century:

“Little children, keep yourself from idols.” (1 John 5:21)

We MUST render to Caesar the things that are his; worship is NOT one of those things. The State is a servant, not a savior. Let’s stop acting as if it were the latter.

— Peter Jones, “Coziness With
Pharaoh” (TruthXChange.org; June 23, 2025)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Psalm 80.1-3 (NLT)

Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph's descendants like a flock.

O God, enthroned above the cherubim, display Your radiant glory to Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Show us Your mighty power. Come to rescue us!

Turn us again to Yourself, O God. Make Your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

Turn us again to Yourself, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies. Make Your face shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” (all 3 verses) #119

“How Great Thou Art” (vv. 1, 3-4) #44

11:15 “Arise, O God, and Shine” -Hurn, 1813

Arise, O God, and shine in all Thy saving might
And prosper each design to spread Thy glorious light
Let healing streams of mercy flow
That all the earth Thy truth may know, Thy truth may know

Bring distant nations near to sing Thy glorious praise
Let every people hear and learn Thy holy ways
Reign, mighty God, assert Thy cause
And govern by Thy righteous laws, Thy righteous laws.

**Arise, O God, and shine
Let Your Kingdom come
Arise, O God, and shine
Let Your will be done**

Send forth Thy glorious pow’r, that Gentiles all may see
And earth present her store in converts born to Thee
O God, our God, Thy church, O bless
And fill the world with righteousness, with righteousness

To God the only wise, the one immortal King
Let hallelujahs rise from ev’ry living thing
Let all that breathe, on every coast
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and Holy Ghost
(Chorus x2)

11:15 “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)”

-Houston/Crocker/Lighthelm, 2010

You call me out upon the waters,
the great unknown, where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery;
in oceans deep, my faith will stand.

And I will call upon Your Name
and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace;
for I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

So I will call upon Your Name
and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace;
for I am Yours and You are mine.

Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders;
let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger
in the presence of my Savior.

(Repeat)

I will call upon Your Name,
keep my eyes above the waves.
My soul will rest in Your embrace;
I am Yours and You are mine.

A Corporate Confession of Sin:

Gracious God,
Our sins are too heavy to shoulder,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
We confess what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer carry,
and what has become for us a unbearable fire of guilt and shame.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
Open to us a future in which we **can** be changed;
Grant us grace to grow more and more into
the likeness and image of our older Brother;
We pray this in His Name, in the Name
of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

The Pronouncement of Peace for All Who Boast In Christ:

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing. (Zephaniah 3.17)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Request:

Thank You, Father, for loving us as You do, for carrying us, forgiving us and for the joy You have in Your blood-bought people: **(Silence)**

We pray for areas of the world where there is suffering and great need: **(Silence)**

We pray for areas of our own lives that seem stubbornly deaf to the singing and gladness of God in Christ: **(Silence)**

We pray for **Fred and Sheila Reid** in Japan; Lord, use their words and works to glorify Yourself and draw people to Your Beloved Son; provide for these servants that they may continue this good mission: **(Silence)**

The Declaration of Faith and Offering

(We use the Declaration of Faith and Offering to “preach to ourselves” the reason for our hope. The Christian’s confidence is in God’s truth and in God’s care. Because Park Road is a church for both convinced Christians and for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we invite you to use this time and the musical reflection to think, pray, offer and consider what God is doing in your life.)

Conducting Ourselves Under God’s Mercy: *Titus* Chapter Three (1-7, 15)

Reader: Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

People: For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Reader: But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

People: whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful...Grace be with you all.

All: Amen!

Response: “The Doxology”

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

9:00 "Soon and Very Soon"

-Crouch, arr. Schrader

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King! (3x)
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are goin' to see the King!
(REPEATS)

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King! (3x)
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We are goin' to see the King!

(Repeat verse 1)

11:15 “Battle Belongs”

-Johnson, Wickham

When all I see is the battle You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You

**So when I fight I'll fight on my knees with my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You**

And if You are for me Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross God, You see the empty tomb
(Chorus)

(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against the power of our God
You shine in the shadows, You win every battle
Nothing can stand against the power of our God
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

O God the battle belongs to You

The Scripture Reading: St Paul's Letter to Rome 12.1-2, 13. 1-14

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

^{CH 13} *Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.*

⁸ *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

¹¹ *Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

The Sermon

- T.J. Campo

The Letter to Rome | Slaves Freed to Love
"The Christian and Civil Authority"

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (all 3 verses)

#598

11:15 “Jesus Paid it All”

Hall/Grape/Nifong 2006

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small!
Child of weakness, watch and pray find in Me thine all in all.”

**Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.**

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow’r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots and melt the heart of stone.
(Chorus)

For nothing good have I whereby Thy grace to claim
I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.
(Chorus)

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat
(Chorus)

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow

O praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
(Repeat)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

SERMON SERIES

The Letter to Rome | Slaves Freed to Love

One author called it “the greatest letter ever written”, another titled it “The Explanation”.

St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans is undoubtedly one of the most influential documents ever produced. The basic theme (the gift of God’s righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ) is a power we need to discover and daily re-discover as it impacts all relationships, decisions and desires in our lives. It’s about slaves (sin) freed (salvation) to love (service) – tune in!

Aug. 31—Romans 14-15

Grey Matters

Sept. 7—Romans 16

“This is the Church; This is the Steeple...”

SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

Sovereign Grace: A Study of God’s Plan, Purpose, and Work of Predestination | Fellowship Hall

The Bible says some startling things about God’s overarching sovereignty and His work in the world. It speaks of God’s “chosen people” and of how certain events and people have been “predestined.” We will look at this topic and ask some of the tough and heart-felt questions and objections that such statements bring about. Join Dr. John Stevenson in the Fellowship Hall.

The Gospel-Centered Life | T. J. & Missy Campo | Library

The Gospel-Centered Life is intended to help Christians understand how the gospel shapes every aspect of life and conduct. Colossians 1.6 says that “the gospel is continually bearing fruit and increasing” in and among us even after we first believe it. How does this happen? Why is a continual re-discovery and re-application of the gospel so important? How will our personal growth and mission life be stunted if we don’t grasp the gospel deeply? These are the questions that *The Gospel Centered Life* seeks to answer.

Junior & High School Sunday Class | Meegan Dorn & Sky McNeill | Room #4 (2nd floor)

Join us this semester as Senior and Junior High listen to the bold voices of the Old Testament prophets calling for change in the hearts of Israel and Judah. These original "rebels" with a purpose call out corrupt kings and nefarious nations to turn back to God.

Elementary Sunday School (Grades K-5) Fall Session – Rooms #1 & 2 (2nd floor)

This fall, our elementary kids will explore what it means to truly worship God—both in heart and action. We invite all children in grades K-5 to join Elijah McNeill for this meaningful and interactive learning experience.

THIS WEEK AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Welcome to Park Road Pres! We are glad to have you with us today.

Sunday	9:00, 11:15 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday Classes
Monday	6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study
Tuesday	6:30 PM	PRYouth
Wednesday	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study on John (via Zoom) Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com
	11:30 AM	SALT: Movie- <i>The Chosen</i> (Library)
	6:30—7:25 PM	Contemporary Worship Team Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	10:00 AM	Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30 PM	ESL Informational Meeting
Saturday	9:00 AM	Worship Team Group Practice

S.A.L.T. Movie: *The Chosen* | Wed., Aug. 27 | 11:30 AM | Library

Join the S.A.L.T. group as they gather on Wednesday, August 27th to watch Season 5, episodes 7 & 8 of *The Chosen*. Bring your own snack to enjoy. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you plan to attend.

Worship Team Group Practice | Sat. Aug. 30 | 9:00 –11:00 AM

We invite musicians and singers to join us as we gather for two hours to rehearse music for the Contemporary Service.

ESL Ministry – Volunteer Informational Meeting | Thurs., Aug. 28 | 6:30 PM

The goal of our church's ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry is to teach our students English while building relationships that open doors to share the gospel by our words and actions. To volunteer, no special language skills are required—all you need is the ability to speak English and a heart to serve. Some roles last just a few weeks while others are for the entire year—there's a place for everyone! If you're interested in learning more, sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form or just come! Your English and your Love-in-action can be the bridge to the gospel.

UPCOMING at PARK ROAD

Parent Meeting – Elementary Ministry | Sun., Aug. 31 | Immediately After 2nd Service

Parents of elementary-aged children, we invite you to join us for an important meeting with church leadership right after the second service on Sun., Aug. 31. This will be a valuable time to connect, share ideas, & explore how to best support & minister to our school-age kids together.

SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch Bunch | Sun., Aug. 31 | 1:00 pm

Once a month on Sunday after the 11:15 AM service the SALT group goes out to lunch! Join them on August 31 at DiSalvos located at 4190 N. 46 Ave. Hollywood, 33021

Christmas Concert Choir Rehearsals Begin Wed. Sept. 3rd

The Park Road choir welcomes you to sing with them at this year's Christmas Concert on Fri., Dec. 12 at 7 pm. These weekly, 30-minute Christmas Choir rehearsals will begin Wed., Sept. 3 at 7:30 pm. Audio recordings will be provided to help you learn the songs more easily. No vocal audition required. Email Dwight Taylor for more information: dwight@parkroadpres.org

Young Adult Women's Craft Night | Fri., Sept. 5 | 7-9 PM

Come Craft With Us! Join us for a relaxed and creative gathering where everyone brings their own craft project. Whether you're into knitting, painting, jewelry making, or scrapbooking—bring what you love to work on! Not a crafter (yet)? No problem! Just stop by Hobby Lobby or your favorite craft store (or Amazon), pick up a beginner-friendly kit, and dive in with us. A perfect occasion to create, connect, and unwind. Light refreshments provided. Hosted at Miriam Meneely's home. Please RSVP on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form for the address.

Women's Ministry Bible Study Kick-off Event | Sat., Sept. 13 | 9:30-11:30 AM

All women are invited to join us for this NEW event where we will spend time together for fellowship & learn more about how we can practically engage personally in the Scriptures for Bible Study. You are not required to be in a Bible study to attend this event- all women are encouraged to come. Pastries & coffee will be provided. Let us know you're coming by signing up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Contact Alexa Cannella for questions! Childcare is provided.

Women's Bible Studies—1 & 2 Kings | Begins Week of Sept. 15th | 3 Different Days

All women are invited to sign up for a Bible Study this fall! We will have 3 opportunities for Bible study: Monday evenings (in-person, 7:30), Tuesday evenings (online, 6:30), and Thursday mornings (in-person, 9:15). This is a great way to become more connected to the church & get to know other women in a smaller group setting. Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Questions? Contact our Women's Ministry Director, Alexa Cannella.

Orchid:

If you would like to purchase (\$30) an orchid for 2025 to be placed in the Sanctuary for a special occasion, fill out your request on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form

